

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01287 101156Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101202Z 123321 /15

P 101020Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9037
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 1287

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NATO, BE, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EUCOM MOVE TO BELGIUM - MEETING AT EUCOM, FEB 8

1. EMBASSY OFFICER (POL/MIL OFFICER NAVEZ) ATTENDED MEETING
AT EUCOM ON FEB. 8 WITH OFFICERS FROM EMBASSY BONN, USNATO,
SHAPE AND EUCOM TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE RELOCATION.
PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE UNDER TELEPHONED GUIDELINES RECEIVED
FEB. 8 FROM DEPARTMENT, WHICH WE MADE KNOWN TO PARTICIPANTS.

2. MEETING BEGAN WITH EUCOM CHAIRMAN, COL. BACCI, DEFINING
THE MEETING'S PURPOSE, WHICH HE SAID WAS TO WORK OUT A GAME
PLAN LEADING TO POLITICAL APPROVAL OF PROJECT AND ALSO TO
MEET NEED EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY BRUSSELS REFLECTING BELGIAN
REQUEST (76 BRUSSELS 12689) FOR A STRATEGIC JUSTIFICATION
OF THE EUCOM MOVE.

3. BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON RELOCATION PROJECT WAS SIMILAR
TO BRIEFING PRESENTED US JAN. 5 BY GENERAL SEITH AT
SHAPE. AMONG POINTS OF INTEREST WERE FOLLOWING:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01287 101156Z

(A) 1,569 (PLUS OR MINUS) EUCOM PERSONNEL WOULD BE
INVOLVED IN MOVE.

(B) APPROXIMATELY 2,700 DEPENDENTS WOULD ACCOMPANY.
(THIS NUMBER MIGHT GROW TO 5,000 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUM-
STANCES.)

(C) RELOCATION WOULD PERMIT A SAVINGS IN 322 PERSONNEL WHO ARE PRESENTLY NEEDED DUE TO SPLIT LOCATION OF SACEUR AND CINCEUR.

(D) TOTAL COST OF MOVE ESTIMATE AT \$92.5 MILLION.

(E) FIGURE IN (D) ABOVE INCLUDES \$13 MILLION FOR 773 HOUSING UNITS WHICH WOULD BE BUILT BY BELGIANS AND LEASED ON LONG TERM BASIS IN ORDER TO MAKE ITS CONSTRUCTION ATTRACTIVE ECONOMICALLY.

(F) 415 EURCOM PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE RELOCATED TO BELGIUM IN PRESENT PLANNING. FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, THEY WOULD REMAIN IN STUTTGART.

(G) SECDEF'S NOV. 22, 1976 APPROVAL OF RELOCATION IS CONTINGENT ON POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FURTHER ENGINEERING ANALYSIS CLEARANCES.

(H) VARIOUS TARGET DATES FOR APPROVAL OF SHAPE'S UNDERGROUND, WARTIME HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT (INCLUDING NATO-ACCEPTED PLANS FOR A EUCOM CELL FOR NUCLEAR CONTINGENCIES.) A DECISION IS REQUIRED SOON ON WHETHER SHAPE'S WARTIME HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO ACCOMMODATE THE REST OF EUCOM.

(I) PLANNING FOR SHAPE'S UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS WILL NOT BE DELAYED REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE EUCOM MOVE. EXCAVATION FOR SHAPE'S HEADQUARTERS IS SCHEDULED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01287 101156Z

TO START IN MARCH 1978.

(J) DOD PLANS TO PRESENT BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS IN LATE MARCH WITH A SPECIFIC ITEM FOR \$32 MILLION FOR EUCOM RELOCATION TO A CLASSIFIED AREA. (POSSIBILITY THAT THIS BUDGET PRESENTATION MIGHT SLIP FOR A FULL CALENDAR YEAR WAS MENTIONED.)

4. EMBASSY BRUSSELS AND BONN AND USNATO OBSERVERS WERE THEN INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS. WE REPEATED BELGIAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED IN 76 BRUSSELS 12689 AND BRUSSELS 62 (A SUMMARY VERSION OF WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED BY LETTER FROM DCM RENNERT TO GENERAL SEITH AT SHAPE AFTER OUR PREVIOUS BRIEFING THERE. LETTER BEING POUCHED.) WE STRESSED THAT THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD BE THE SOLE BELGIAN POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE USG ON THIS ISSUE AT ITS SPECIFIC REQUEST (PARA 8 76 BRUSSELS 12689). WE ALSO NOTED THAT BELGIAN DECISION MAKING PROCESS WAS COMPLICATED AND OFTEN LENGTHY (UP TO

TWO YEARS) BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH F-16 AND SIMILAR ISSUES. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, WE SAID THAT: (A) IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT EUCOM PERSONNEL COULD BE ACCOMMODATED AT SHAPE UNDER THE EXISTING US-BELGIAN-SHAPE AGREEMENT - A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY IF EUCOM WERE RELOCATED; AND

(B) IT WAS EQUALLY A NON-STARTER TO EXPECT BELGIAN APPROVAL FOR LOW-LEVEL TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED MOVE ON EVEN A NON-COMMITTAL BASIS.

5. EUCOM CHAIRMAN THEN CIRCULATED A WORKING PAPER FOR USG USE ONLY ENTITLED "STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES RELATING TO THE COLLOCATION OF HQ USEUCOM WITH SHAPE". PAPER INCLUDED TWELVE ADVANTAGES TO PROPOSED MOVE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS STRATEGIC REASONS MOTIVATING PROJECT PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. DISCUSSION ENSUED ON WHAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 01287 101156Z

STRATEGIC CONCEPT MIGHT INCLUDE, SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM LIST OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCES. EMBASSY AND USNATO REPS WERE ASKED TO TAKE PAPER AND FURNISH EUCOM WITH WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. THIS WAS DECLINED PURSUANT TO STATE'S GUIDELINES FOR OUR ATTENDANCE AT MEETING.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE MEETING WAS USEFUL IN PROVIDING US WITH SOME UPDATED INFORMATION OF WHAT MOVE MIGHT ENTAIL (PARA 3 ABOVE) AND IN PERMITTING US TO EXPOSE EUCOM ACTION OFFICERS DIRECTLY TO THE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED FOR BELGIUM. END COMMENT.RENNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY COMMUNICATION, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE01287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-1176
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwvg.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b35d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3357844
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EUCOM MOVE TO BELGIUM - MEETING AT EUCOM, FEB 8
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, BE, US, NATO, EUCOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b35d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009